



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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George V. Voinovich
Governor

March 26, 1999

RE: DOE FEMP
COMMENTS: PRAIRIE GRASS
ESTABLISHMENT STUDY 1998
ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Johnny Reising
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Dear Mr. Reising:

Ohio EPA has reviewed the DOE's February 16, 1999 submittal, "Prairie Grass Establishment Study 1998 Annual Report" Based upon our review Ohio EPA has the attached comments.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Terry Hagen, FDF
Ruth Vandegrift, ODH
Manager, TPSS/DERR, CO
Mark Shupe, HSI GeoTrans
Francie Barker, Tetra Tech EM Inc.



**PRAIRIE GRASS ESTABLISHMENT STUDY
1998 ANNUAL REPORT**

1. Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO

Section #: Pg #: 5 Line #: Code: C

Original Comment #:

Comment: The statement regarding availability of workers when the window of opportunity exists is an excellent observation. As we progress with the planting projects at Fernald the importance of this one issue becomes painfully obvious. These projects are dependent on the whims of Mother Nature, not the contract workers. Provisions need to be made to assure that windows of opportunity are not missed in the future.

2. Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DSW

Section #: Pg #: 6 Line #: Code: C

Original Comment #:

Comment: As in comment #1 above, keeping workers and equipment available to seize the windows of opportunity is important so that advisers and supervisors are free to advise and supervise.

3. Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: OFFO

Section #: Pg #: 6 Line #: Code: C

Original Comment #:

Comment: The lessons learned section is very beneficial addition to the report. The section provides lessons that can should be applied in future restoration projects. Ohio EPA would recommend similar additions to reports from the other research projects.

4. Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DSW

Section #: Pg #: 6 Line #: Code: C

Original Comment #:

Comment: It is not clear how the statement that a cover crop of oats would be beneficial could be made based on the results presented. No evidence exists to support this since there was no cover crop of oats due to clogging of the Truax during seeding of the oats.

5. Commenting Organization: Ohio EPA Commentor: DSW

Section #: General Pg #: Line #: Code: C

Original Comment #:

Comment: There was such a dramatic difference between these plots and the prairie grasses planted at the bioengineering project. Can any conclusions be drawn about the differences seen (e.g. different planting densities, watering, timing, soil nutrients, etc).